

# Rockport Conservation Commission Policy on Blasting

## INTRODUCTION & DESCRIPTION:

Blasting is the breaking of boulders or ledge with the use of explosives. The Rockport Conservation Commissions (RCC) is concerned with its possible effect on nearby resource areas. We may require that it be minimized and monitored. The following are the requirements of the RCC for blasting within 100' of a wetland resource area(s). The contractor who will conduct blasting on the property is required to obtain a blasting permit from the Rockport Fire Department.

## POLICY:

- 1) Prior to the blasting review of the site, a copy of the blasting plan and permit shall be filed with the RCC.
- 2) If the blasting is to take place within 100' of a wetland the RCC requires a review of the site to take place. The review shall include the applicant's Wetland Scientist, the Blasting Contractor and the Conservation Agent.
- 3) If the site review identifies any resource areas that could make it vulnerable to damage by blasting, that information must be presented to the RCC for approval prior to the blasting . Examples of these issues maybe a tall, unsupported quarry wall or vernal pool on ledge adjacent to the area to be blasted.
- 4) If a resource area has been identified and agreed on by the RCC as being of specific concern during the blasting, the applicant will present for approval by the RCC a plan to protect the resource area. This plan may include the applicant's efforts to minimizing the amount and size of the blasting; reducing the amount of ledge removal required by adjustments to the proposed building and utility plan, and maximizing the distance from the resource area of the blasting.
- 5) The RCC may also require that the applicant present for approval in the plan, the method for documenting and monitoring of the resource area(s) of specific concern for any change to it during and after the blasting.

## Contingency Plan:

- A. If any **wetland alteration occurs**, including the dropping of water level of ponds, vernal pools, quarries or motions, the **applicant shall immediately cease work** at the site **and only continue under the direction of the Commission or its Agent**. The applicant shall **immediately notify the Commission by telephone, and within 48 hours, provide the Commission, in writing, a description of the alteration**. The applicant shall forthwith develop and submit a plan including alternatives to address and remediate the alteration for approval.
- B. If disturbance or alteration to any wetland is identified by the Commission or its agent(s), the Applicant shall comply with any order of the Commission to remediate or mitigate the disturbance, alteration, or loss of any wetland resource area (as defined in the Rockport Code of By-laws 14.A.) on the site.

This policy was approved by the Rockport Conservation Commission at its September 18, 2013 meeting.

# **Rockport Conservation Commission Policy on Blasting**

## **REASONING:**

**This policy is to provide the applicant with the RCC's concerns and possible requirements for blasting within 100 feet of a wetland resource area or within a 200- foot Riverfront Area. The Rockport Conservation Commission stands ready to work with all home owners to best obtain our mutual goals.**

For further information, please contact:

Conservation Agent  
Rockport Conservation Commission  
34 Broadway  
Rockport, MA 01966  
Phone: 978-546-5005  
FAX: 978-546-3562  
Website: [www.town.Rockport.ma.us](http://www.town.Rockport.ma.us) (Regulatory & Land Use)